

THE COLORED BUSINESS MAN.

Why So Few of Them are Engaged in Legitimate Commercial Enterprises—Ministers and Leaders at Fault—The Masses will not Sustain Our Business Men Unless Forced to—Colored Clerks and Bookkeepers Not Wanted by White Merchants.

Editor of The Colored American—

The more I read The Colored American the more I am convinced that it ought to be a daily paper. The American is always full of instructive articles written by some of the best writers, both men and women, the race has produced; and these should reach the public more than once a week—hence this great journal should be a daily, etc., etc.

Under the caption "The Colored Man in Business," I cull the following from the editorial page of The Colored American, under date of the 22d of August: "We are grieved to observe how few of our people are engaged in business ventures of any character. What is the explanation?" etc., etc.

You certainly have my heartfelt sympathy in your "grief" over the colored man's failure to venture into business. But don't allow these little things to drive you to despair, nor to cause you to commit suicide; for the colored man will never venture very far into business until he is assured of the patronage of his own race.

As long as the colored people will continue to pass by the business places of their own race, to patronize the white man, who don't care to wait on them at his place of business, just so long will you have to pour out your vial of grief in behalf of the colored brother who dare not now venture too far into business in opposition to the white man.

The thing that we all should be "grieved about" is, why so few of the colored people "patronize" their own race. Get our people aroused along that line and it will only be a question of a very short time when we will make ourselves felt in the business world. Much of this work could be accomplished through the colored ministers right here in Washington. Here we have a nice shoe store—the Capital Shoe Company—gotten up by a few of our energetic young men, who saw the need of such an enterprise among our people. These young men deserve the patronage of every colored man, woman and child in Washington. If our people would only rush to the colored shoe store instead of forcing themselves to Hahn's, Goldenburg's, and the other shoe stores, where they are not wanted, these young men would soon be able to hire a great many of the young people who are educated and are capable of being clerks, bookkeepers, etc.

Only a few weeks ago there appeared an advertisement in one of the city papers that a lady clerk was wanted at S. Kann, Sons & Co. A young colored lady whose skin is almost as fair as any of the white lady clerks in Kann's store, answered the advertisement. She was given a place as clerk. But, alas! it leaked out that she was a colored girl—and, notwithstanding the colored people spend their thousands of dollars a year with S. Kann, Sons & Co., this poor girl was only allowed to finish the day

there, and she was promptly dismissed. Ah! is not this enough to drive the colored people of Washington to venture into business of their own, and to induce the colored people to spend their thousands of dollars with their own race instead of forcing themselves on these despised Jews? If there ever was a race of people who should be against the persecution of mankind, it ought to be the Jew. Let us start now, to give our patronage to the colored men and women who have ventured into business, and it will be a question of a very short time ere we will have cause to discontinue so much of our unnecessary grief along that line.

As I remarked some time ago, the Negro is a giant asleep. Let us wake up and "start" something. Why not the men here, who have some money, open up a store of dry goods, shoes, notions, etc., and then call something like a "business mass meeting" and tell the people just how the colored people are being discriminated against by the opposite race, and urge them to patronize and help build up the business enterprises of their own race. Say what you may, but a "mass meeting" of this kind would arouse the people and the tide will turn when a true picture of the situation shall have been presented to them.

The colored ministers would be a power for good, if they would give their influence by urging, from the pulpit, the necessity of building up ourselves in the business world—and that this can only be done by patronizing the enterprises carried on by our colored men and women.

We call upon such ministers as Rev. W. J. Howard, George W. Lee, S. L. Corrothers, R. S. Rives, Walter H. Brooks, and others, to throw open the doors of their churches for the purpose of holding meetings to arouse the people to action. Our people can very easily be aroused in building new churches and running excursions all the summer, and living on charity all the winter—and why can't they be aroused in patronizing race enterprises? It can be done. Leaders who don't lead are no leaders at all. We have leaders who will sell us politically. Where, O, where are the leaders who are ready and willing to redeem us in the great field (which is full ripe) of business?

If such men as Messrs. P. B. S. Pinchback, George H. White, John C. Dancy, John P. Green, Judson W. Lyons, and others, would just come together and lay in a stock of goods, and then call just such a meeting as I have referred to, and get all of the ministers to keep the subject before their people, we will soon find employment for the colored girl who was recently dismissed by S. Kann, Sons & Co. because of her color, and numbers of others.

The above-named gentlemen are great great talkers. But, gentlemen, much talk without work availeth nothing. You have sons and daughters who are being educated for business. When they return home from school, they will be given an equal chance to spend their money with the white man, but will not be given a chance to earn any, save to sweep the floor, wash windows, etc. There is no law to prohibit you from going into business. Will you try it? It's your move, Gentlemen. J. C. CUNNINGHAM.

A CONFERENCE OF COLORED CITIZENS.

An Industrial and Educational Conference was held, by the colored citizens of Charles and adjacent counties, at St. Phillips church, Port Tobacco, Wednesday and Thursday the 19th and 20th inst. Despite very inclement weather, the Conference was attended by large numbers of people. The Conference was opened with an inspiring service, followed by a very interesting address by General Wilmer, of Charles county, on the subject, "Does the strict enforcement of law lesson crime."

In the evening, the Rev. Father Smith, of St. Monaca's Chapel, Washington, D. C., preached a very instructive sermon from John iii 33. The subject of farming was opened by Rev. J. G. Bryant, of Charlotte, Md., and was followed by a general discussion. Many points of interest was brought out, in regard to the best method of farming.

The people assembled again in large numbers on Thursday. The Conference opened by an address by Rev. Father Smith, on the subject of "Religious education," followed by Rev. Bryant, on "The Colored Schools in rural districts." Both addresses were warmly discussed by members of the Conference. It was learned from the discussion that there exists much dissatisfaction with the colored public schools; especially of Charles county.

The presence of the Rev. Mr. Poinexter, who has labored faithfully for many years in this locality, was greatly appreciated, as were also his words of commendation and encouragement. In the evening, three intensely interesting papers were read by young misses of the Parish school. The received close attention. The value of these conferences is seen from the fact that many farms have been purchased, by the people of this vicinity, who receive their stimulus from addresses given by the several speakers.

HIGHLAND BEACH NOTES.

The usual amusements at this resort were indulged in during the past week. The close of the season is now at hand. A great many visitors have been to this resort during the season, from surrounding places and from distant homes. There is no resort near Washington where we can possibly derive so much pleasure and solid benefit as this place. Several have concluded to build cottages here before another summer comes.

We notice among the visitors this week, at the Bowen Cottage, Misses Katie, Sylvia, and Alexander, Annie Wilder, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Tatem and children, who have spent several days at the beach; Messrs. Walter Welbourne and Jesse Chinn; Misses Ellen and Laura Fisher, Carrie and Minnie Price, of Washington, D. C., and Miss Ellen Lee, of Baltimore, Md. Mrs. Kate Perry, of Fayetteville, N. C., is spending a few days with her daughter, Mrs. H. C. Tyson.

Mrs. M. E. Tucker and daughter, Esie, were guests of Mrs. Tyson during the present week.

Mrs. Taibert and daughter, of Washington, D. C., are visitors at the Douglass Cottage.

Mrs. R. B. Coleman and little daughter, Rosa, Mrs. F. A. Dyson and the Misses N. T. Jackson, Augusta and Lyda Savoy and Mr. Clarence Robinson are visiting at the Guy Cottage.

Mr. G. W. Fair, of the Superintendents office, at the Capitol, accompanied by his wife, has just returned from a month's vacation. They visited N. Y., Philadelphia, and Atlantic City, and had a delightful time. Mr. Fair is now at his post at the Capitol, thirteen pounds heavier than when he started on the trip.

If you are taking quinine and need a good whiskey to go along with it, get a bottle of "Trimble" at "Con" Naughton's, 1926 14th street, N. W. He has on hand the best of liquid goods. This is no "con."

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